

quantity of a feature contained in a frame of image data, for determining a featured frame among said image data based on said frame feature value in accordance with a request for extracting a featured frame, and for generating index information which is positional information of said featured frame,

wherein said frame feature value is calculated by said image data including associated data for transporting, storing or coding the image, and is not a component of said image data; and

1 a image retrieval executing unit connected to said index information generating unit, for transmitting said request for extracting said featured frame to said index information generating unit, for receiving said index information from said index information generating unit, for receiving said image data from an external source, and for outputting a frame specified based on said index information,

wherein said index information is adaptively changed by changing a setting of a threshold value during the process of retrieval.